

CONTROL/Secret

17 December 1945

Germany

Subject: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Report of the Bishop of Mainz to the Pope

Source: Sarazen

Document.

(For Reports Office only: This is an excerpt taken from the two original letters of the Bishop of Mainz (Germany) sent to Pope Pius XII. through source)

~~Re~~ Both of the letters are dated 8 December 1945.

1. In the first letter the bishop presents his requests, complaints and problems, later on the Bishop reports on what has been done to rebuild religious life in his diocese and at the end gives a general short view on the international angle of Germany.

2. The Bishop is very pleased that in some way the contact with the Holy See has been reestablished thru the Papal Mission for Displaced Persons residing in Frankfurt.

3. The food situation, according to the Bishops report, is catastrophic in French occupied Germany. The Bishop emphasizes that the contrast between the American and British system and the French can not be expressed by words. No food, not even potatoes will be in his own district from the end of February 1946 on. Nothing ~~more~~ characterizes more the French policy than the fact that 70,000 French soldiers in the Bishops own district, eating more meat than 1,500,000 Germans. The Bishop quotes for all these data the Minister of Public Supply in the French Occupied territories, with whom he (the Bishop) had several interviews.

4. The situation is not better in the housing, clothing and fuel situation. It is generally known, says the Bishop, that coal ~~was~~ could have been provided

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for the population all over Germany, if the Allies had the intention to give them solid fuel. ~~It~~ It is known also, that there are several funds in the United States for clothing etc, for the German people but "the hatred against the Germans does not permit to deliver these funds."

5. Another problem to be settled, the problem of the millions of the German refugees from the East. The Bishop has no special views on that, because he is helpless, but stresses that German Catholic Refugees should not be deprived from their German priests as he emphasizes that the Poles should keep their Polish priests.

6. The Bishop is profoundly impressed by the methods of the denazification all over Germany (not only in French occupied territories. - Source's remark). The Bishop states that he was weeping with tears in his eyes how "heartless, brutal, without any psychological understanding and feeling how formalistic, one-pattern-made, without individual examination, and without considering reasonable facts" the de nazification is being carried out. The Bishop expresses his views that with such methods only the contrary of that with the Allies want ~~will~~ will happen and "Germany will be pushed into the hands of rightist and leftist radicalism". The Bishop calls the present plan of denazification as completely unfortunate, but generally agrees on denazification.

7. The Bishop states that the situation of the German refugees from the East is "heartbreaking" and in connection with this problem he writes "I must confess that ~~knowing that we are responsible for the situation we are in~~ we Germans began to treat people in such a way, we are responsible but the Allied policy is to reeducate us and reeducation can not use only punishment and expiation. And the herd is never mature."

8. The Bishop's last complaint is the long lasting imprisonment of the German

2. Any speed in the system of releases would ease on the depressing situation in Germany.

3. The Bishop reports later on the situation of the religious communities in his diocese, on the rebuilding of churches and parsons, monasteries on the importance to support the people in its struggle for the daily life. He mentions that there is a very important movement among the protestants in Germany to join the Catholic Church. The Bishop states that hundreds of Protestant Ministers would join the Catholic Church if they could remain priests and keep their families, wives. The ~~sex~~ coelibatus in the Catholic Church is not a dogma, but merely a disciplinary law, thus some statement is expected by the Pope to facilitate the way of these Protestant Ministers to join the Catholic Church.

4. At the end of his letter the Bishop explains to the Pope that some unity of Germany should be preserved. It is true, says the Bishop that for about 100 years the world was troubled by the German problem and Germany itself was ruled by Prussian Militarism, but it is true also that Germany was back in its development (which is not entirely its fault) and because the other Western Peoples did not give the German people sufficient possibilities, Germany was exploding from time to time into a imperialistic adventures. "One can not make peace within Germany if large parts of the country will be detached". The Bishop asks the Pope to put the German problem in real lights.

5. In the second letter the Bishop reports on his plans to arrange a catholic University in Mainz.